Mat-Su Monitor
Matanuska-Susitna College
December 2008

Mat-Su College Bookstore

By Jonathan Quennell

Starting Spring Semester 2009, students relying on slow shipping to delay their book buying will need to find a new excuse – Textbooks will be sold once again in the Mat-Su campus bookstore. Building on top of last year's introduction of Mat-Su textbooks to UAA's main bookstore in Anchorage, and atop of rising complaints about the shipping cost of books, sometimes as much as 60% of the price, Mat-Su College has decided to give students the option of purchasing on site from a limited selection. While all subjects may not be covered at the Campus Cache, those books not carried will be supported by the existing online ordering system. If ordered at least three-four weeks before classes start, as recommended, online ordering is comparable in shipping from Amazon.

According to Maggie McDaniel, the manager of the Campus Cache, some students will likely still try to search for deals through online sources such as Amazon. McDaniel warns, however, that ordering books from Amazon affiliates can sometimes be risky. Although some students have gotten good deals, they've waited an inordinate amount of time for their books.

So welcome home, physical books and welcome back online books. Make use of this new service, by both buying books and selling old textbooks. Remember, if you drop or add a class at the last minute, you stand to wait a month or pay a fortune to get the materials you require for success.

Finished Mask by Michelle Furbush in Color Design class taught by Professor Suzanne Bach.

Students Learn Print Making

Professor Suzanne Bach invited guest artist Rhonda Horton to present her printmaking skills in the evening Art Appreciation Class.

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Turkey Red Restaurant

By Jane Deuster

The talk of the town is Turkey Red; a dining experience comparable to a fine European café, lively and comfortable. Turkey Red has successfully integrated wholesome food ingredients with robust taste. The name Turkey Red is derived from a variety of the first hard winter wheat grown in the United States by the Mennonites in 1874. Like the name implies, this restaurant is based on wholesome, healthy goodness. The restaurants décor emits a warm and timeless elegance, a place you'll want to linger at long after your meal is finished.

Owner/Chef Alex Papasavas has a two-fold vision for Turkey Red; a great place to eat and a great place to work. That vision has already come to fruit; the food is no less than superb and the employees provide service that is unsurpassed and full of positive energy. The combination of Managing Kitchen Chef Franco Magrini, Chef/Owner Alex Papasavas and Chef Joe Bates, creates a winning combination of talented chefs who harbor enthusiasm and passion for cooking and love to create original recipes. In addition, Emily Dougherty is a culinary chef in training and is currently enrolled in the University of Alaska Culinary Arts Program. Together with 27 employees they orchestrate an unforgettable dining experience.

The chefs will amaze you with their daily specials, timeless favorites, and impromptu and innovative dishes created right there on the spot. The menu is not confined to regional

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Matanuska-Susitna College 50th Anniversary Time Capsule Celebrating 50 years of Excellence in Education(continued on page 3)

(TURKEY from page 1)

constraints though, a variety of worldly and domestic cuisine is sure to please all discerning tastes.

Turkey Red bread is not just an accompaniment or filler, it's an event in its own right! The bread is slowly fermented and only wholesome and healthy ingredients like olive oil, organic unbleached flour, filtered water, and sea salt are used. It is baked daily in their amazing stone-hearth oven. You can purchase a variety of daily specials like Focaccia, Olive, Whole Wheat, Sourdough, Challa, Sourdough with Three Seeds, Roasted Garlic, Sun-dried Tomato, Baguette, Ciabatta,, Jalapeno and Cheddar, or Rosemary, all fresh baked and ready to go, Monday through Saturday. Check out the daily special on their web site.

You won't want to pass up the pastry case; they offer a wide variety of pastries made from scratch, with additional items being created and incorporated. Choose from scones, focaccia, cookies and biscotti.

One of the unique attributes is the restaurant's combination of Alaskan products and locally grown produce and ingredients. Fresh and local ingredients are so integral that Chef Franco Magrini makes his own mozzarella cheese! Turkey Red serves only top quality meats including organic chicken and hormone-free beef and pork. Many of the recipes use Matanuska Creamery products. The freshly ground coffee served at the coffee bar is roasted locally by the Coffee Roastery located on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, and the vast array of teas are provided by local tea herbalist Stella Lyn of Red Moon Rising. Alex Papasavas has even gone the extra mile to utilize Alaskan made hand soaps in her restaurant.

The beer menu features local brews as well as imported Ales and Lagers. Try the JK Scrumpy's Hard Apple Cider Organic! The wine menu includes high quality wines from around the world.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served between the hours of 7:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Turkey Red is located at 550 South Alaska

Mat-Su Monitor
Matanuska-Susitna College

Managing Editor
Kellie Davis

Media Advisor
Dr. Pete Praetorius

Layout
Joshua Tenderholt
WWW.GODINONE.ORG

Contributors
Kellie Davis
Bradley Scott Lucas
Jonathan Quennell
James Wright
Jane Deuster
Pete Praetorius

Printer
Frontiersman

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Street Suite 100 in downtown Palmer just across the street from the Palmer Hotel. They do accept reservations, but walk-ins are welcome as they have ample seating for 55 customers. Their phone number is 907-746-5544, and you can preview the menu and read more information about Turkey Red on their web site at www.turkeyred.com Turkey Red is always looking for ideas from its patrons, so drop in and say hello. You'll see what all the talk is about!

Mat-Su College 50th Celebration

By : Bradley Scott Lucas

As many of you may or may not know, the year 2008 marks the Matanuska-Susitna College's fiftieth anniversary. Throughout this year, the Mat-Su College has celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with such events as the Winter Festival, which was held during the spring semester. Throughout the summer semester, celebrations slowed down, as can only be expected, being that most of the staff and faculty were not on campus. However, now in the fall semester more celebrations are set to take place, including the sealing of the Mat-Su College time capsule at the Christmas party for staff and faculty members in mid-December. In 2009, there is a tentative plan for the conception of a new scholarship for new, full-time Matsu College freshman who have graduated from local Valley high schools. The funds for this new scholarship will be raised at an art auction, which will most likely take place at an off-campus location. The art being auctioned off will be various works of Fred Machetanz which depict Alaskan themes. Finally, in May, at the graduation ceremony, some of the founders of the college during late 1950's and 1960's will be recognized and honored for the roles that they have played in the foundation of the college and for their contributions to its growth these past fifty years. Over the years, the college has seen much improvement, in the expansion and addition of certain degree programs and classes, the physical expansion of its buildings including the building, Snodgrass Hall, and in the expansion of its number of employed faculty and staff members. These have been a good fifty years for the college and we look forward to the next fifty.

(TIME CAPSULE from 2)

Mat-Su College Time Capsule

To help commemorate the Mat-Su College's fiftieth anniversary, the college has decided to create a time capsule. Currently, the time capsule is in a glass case by the director's office in the JKB building. The college is looking for things to place inside the time capsule and is open to suggestions. However, there are certain stipulations on what can and will be placed inside the capsule. One is that it must be from the year 2008, two, it must either have something to do with the state of Alaska, or the college, and three; it must fit inside the time capsule. For an example of some of the things the college has already decided to place inside it are the 2008-2009 Bulletin, one copy of each of the catalogs for the spring, summer, and fall semesters, and a copy of the latest Mat-Su Monitor. The sealing of the time capsule is set to take place at the Christmas party for the faculty and staff of the college, sometime in mid-December, and is scheduled to be opened in 2058. More information on the time capsule can be found at the Mat-Su college website at http://www.matsu.alaska.edu/.

Print Making

Here is a picture of Rhonda showing Corey Cowgill some techniques in relief printing. Rhonda will graduate in the spring from UAA main campus, but she attended MSC for her first two years and often returns to campus to help and encourage fellow students in the Art Department.

More students doing printmaking in Mrs. Bach's class, where hair in the face is never a deterrent to creativity.

Renewable Energy College Course

Have you ever wished you could turn that howling winter wind in the Matanuska Valley into electricity? Have you ever wondered how hard it would be to tap into our region's midnight sun and generate power? Or, have you ever had the power to your home or business go out and wish you had some sort of back-up system? Well, this Spring Matanuska-Susitna College will be offering a semester-long course that addresses these concerns. Renewable Energy System Design and Installation will address most of the aspects of how to size and install renewable energy systems.

The course will be taught by Andy Soria, who is an Assistant Research Professor of Wood Chemistry for UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in Palmer. Soria's main research interests includes the utilization of low value biomass for fuels and chemicals, mostly through thermochemical means (gasification, pyrolysis, supercritical fluids). Prior to

entering academia, Dr. Soria worked in the building and operations of a 27 MW geothermal power plant, off the river hydroelecric power plant, oil and gas exploration and did graduate work in wind and solar energy.

The course will cover how to evaluate, design, and install solar, wind, hydro, and small scale wood backup energy systems. The course will also cover how to best use batteries to store power that is produced, and how to invert that DC battery power to run AC lights and other household items.

People choose to install renewable energy systems for a variety of reasons. Traditionally, those who live in areas not serviced by electrical utilities must provide for their own electricity and heat or go with out. In Alaska, many people who live in the Bush or off the road system fall into this category. But even many people who live on the road system, in the MatSu Valley and in the Anchorage area, live beyond the reach of utility power lines. For these people, the cost of bringing in utility power is often more expensive than creating and living with their own systems.

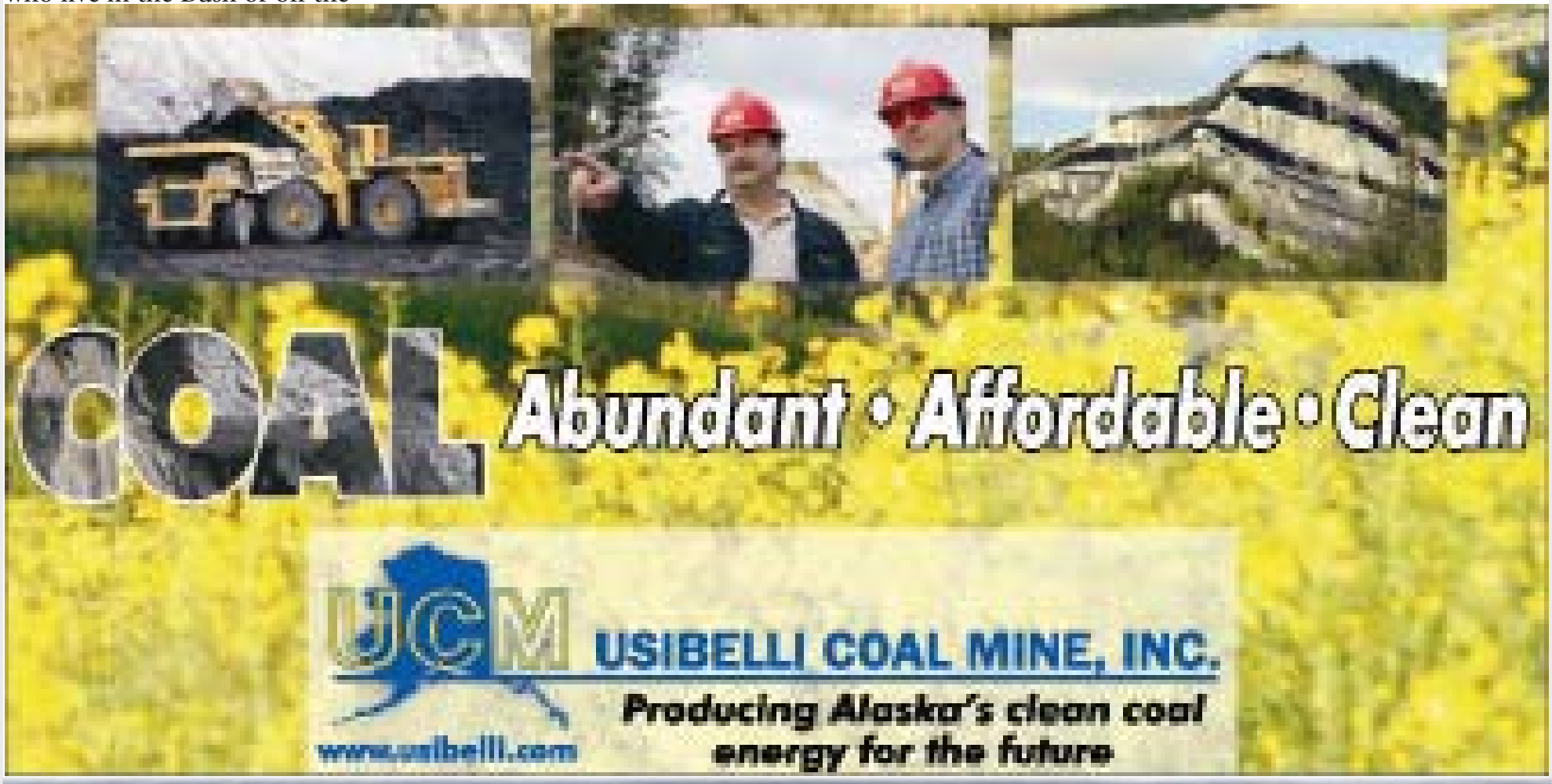
The course will be offered through Matanuska-Susitna College's program in Refrigeration and Heating. Dan Mielke, the coordinator for the Refrigeration and Heating Program says that he expects "a course on renewable energy system installation will be of interest to professionals who wish to install such system commercially and to enthusiastic homeowners who wish to install systems on their own."

Book jacket cover by AnnaGrace Peters in Professor Suzanne Bach's Color Design class, is made with Inko Dyes, spray paint and colored

pencils.

Art Gallery Opening of "Continuum"

The Mat-Su College Art Gallery will host Carol Tillett and Sarah Hinson's exhibit, "Continuum," which merges fiber art and fiber mythology with nonlinear concepts of space. Stepping into our installation is the



choice to enter a realm of texture, color, and the cyclic force of the three fates. The installation appears as an abstracted tree of life, where you may move through the roots, trunk, and branches as they spiral around the room. The exhibit will run from Friday, December 5th to December 12th. The gallery is open from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Jesus in Jail: Volunteering at Local Prisons

By Kellie Coulson Davis

On a November weekend I drove to a church in Eagle River to meet up with Kairos volunteers to go do a retreat at Hiland Women's Prison. For 4 days, we'd take over the gymnasium which we'd divide into quarters for a food preparation area, a chapel, a community room, and a class room. For one long weekend, we would teach them about Jesus Christ and how to live a Christian life. Kairos is not a church but a gender specific mission group who goes in to a prison, teaches a group of inmates about God, presents lessons to go along with songs, poster drawings, and food! The food was amazing where each member of the 18 person team on my trip brought in at least 20 dozen (288) cookies while a dedicated team cooks and sends food in from a local church to feed 24 offenders and 18 team members. Kairos believes that every prisoner is worthy of God's love.

Knowing God helps prisoners become accountable for their actions, and it also helps them have hope when nothing but long years stretch before them. Kairos team does everything for the offenders, including serving food and clean up. Team members are there to serve God through the inmates. Their efforts may go far and wide and their reward will not be seen in full in this lifetime; the reward of knowing that they have shown God's love and sown it in the hearts of a struggling, disenfranchised population where they hope it will be spread is the reward of a Kairos volunteer.

Team members were facilitators at tables called "Faith," "Love," "Peace," and "Joy." The tables were "families" and they shared stories during the talks of their own struggles. Inmates were from all over the state and had varied issues to work through. What they could all come together on was a yearning to be loved by God and brought closer to Him through the teachings of Jesus Christ. Contrary to what one might think, Jesus forgiving inmates does not mean they thought that He excused their behavior. Certainly the great feelings aroused by Kairos will be watered down by the environment that they live in, but they have picked up healthy tools for living and they will, with a lot of determination, keep applying these tools.

At the closing ceremony, a lawyer friend who joined me started to get tears in his eyes listening to the women speak. All were well spoken and articulate. Barriers were broken

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down between women who had never spoken. All agreed that they were leaving with forgiveness, a sense of value to themselves that many had lost or had never had. A corrections officer said that for many pilgrims, the effects last for the rest of their stay in prison. Like anyone else, inmates backslide and go forward on their Christian walk.

Part of Christianity's appeal historically has been the ideas in that everyone is equal. In the days of early Christianity, slaves were often reading the sermons to free Romans. Such was the case with us, bringing in people who were bound so that they could realize that they were free and had choices. Limited choices, but there are still choices.

The training had been about 30 hours of talking and discussing our pasts and our feelings on inmates, not to mention the rules. When Kairos goes into a prison, their first obligation is to the prison rules. Kairos members are supposed to back the institution when inmates complain, and they never break the rules or even fudge just a little bit lest they bring down the program.

For more information, I urge anyone who is interested to contact Kairos Prison Ministries at www.kairosprisonministry.org A Kairos is being put together for going to the men at Wildwood in Seward this January.

Professor Bach displayed the color value studies of her art students Tonya Stowell, Bonnie Scherer, Dawn Adamson and AnnaGrace Peters in the gallery.

Michelle Furbush makes the mold for her mask in Color Design class taught by Professor Suzanne Bach.

Tonya Stowell lets her art work go to her head in this papermaking collage project in the Color Design class taught by Professor Suzanne Bach

New Club: Order of the Iron Chariot

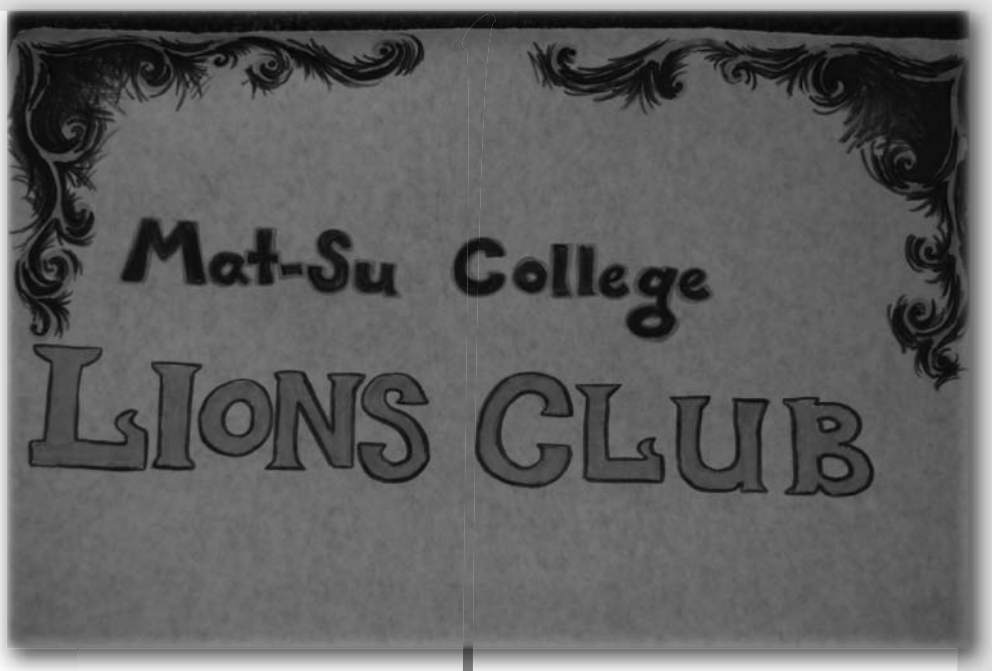
By: Kory Pickard

"Do you believe in god, deny alternative beliefs, and refuse to debate the finer points of faith? Then you probably won't like us." The quote is part of an advertisement from Order of the Iron Chariot, a student club at Mat-Su College. What started as a joke between agnostic friends has became an academic club. It espouses an environment where individuals can openly discuss alternative views for or against religion. Membership is free and open to anyone. The club exists to explore differing views in the pursuit of individual, social, and universal truths in an open and accepting environment.

Judges 1:19 "And the LORD was with Judah… but he could not drive out the inhabitants… because they had chariots of iron." This was the verse that made the joke that started the club. For co-founder Cyrillus Petersen, this moment of humor was too important to keep contained. He suggested making a club where students could openly discuss this type of absurdity in religion. That, mixed with an ethos of academically logical discourse, is a guiding principle of the OIC. To officially start a club at Mat-Su College requires up to fifteen members as well as a staff or faculty advisor. For the Order of the Iron Chariot, all of these slots were filled within twenty minutes worth of work through word-of –mouth. Consisting of atheists, agnostics, "I don't care"-ists, Pastafarians (yes, Pasta-farians), Christians, and others, some have claimed belief in divinity without fidelity to any particular religion. Informal and open, the humorous banter commonly goes between concepts of philosophy, religion, and science. The club officers jokingly refer to themselves as "doctor." Questions are the focus, and facts in an off-the-top-of-the-head style. 'As long as people remember that none of us are professional philosophers, scientists, or clergy, and that we do not have all the facts, we can walk away with a handshake and a smile,' said Petersen.

With an ethos of logic, humor, and understanding, this group is made up of college students from many backgrounds, each with their own spin on definitions of truth. According to the membership criteria, "applicants must petition club officers, must be students of the UA system, owns, has access to, or be able to roughly describe vehicles composed, in whole or in part, or iron." Says Vance Rasor, one of the clubs officers and the 'I don't care'-ist, "it's good to have a group where you can express your views, or that you don't care about religion, and not have someone else try to stuff their religion down your throat."

Be it for development, expansion, and debate of one's religion, or the increased knowledge of other views, the Order of the Iron Chariot is being widely regarded as an interesting and fun endeavor. Regardless of whether the club survives the semester or not, the fact that differing views are becoming more commonplace is only made evident by such groups. In His Noodily name, Ramen.



The Lions Club is opening a student chapter at Mat-Su College. For more information on the Lions Club Student Chapter, contact Dr. P.T. Chang in Sondgrass 103A or 745-9727.

CLUBS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government provides an opportunity for student to get involved in campus activities and participate in facilitate events and discussion. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:50am in FSM 109.

Mat-Su Monitor

The Mat-Su Monitor is the newspaper for the Mat-Su College. The next issue will come out 12/07/08 in the Frontiersman and will be spread out around the campus one or two days later

NOW-CAN
National Organization for Women

The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.

CS4C
College Student for Christ

College Students for Christ is a group of believers trying to bring God glory through their lives. They meet to encourage one another spiritually and academically. They meet Thursday at 7:30pm in JKB 108.

Order of the Iron Chariot
Awesome

In the dictionary, there is the definition of awesome. The Order of the Iron Chariot is awesome, too. Open discussion of topics from morality and religion to politics and culture. Open to all, see Student Government for details.

MSC Sports

by James Wright

Student Government President

For fifty years, MSC has been without something that so many other colleges take such great pride in: a sports team. Well, Mat-Su College and the MSC Student Government want to create a co-ed college basketball team to play and participate in local games and tournaments. By this Spring semester, through a collaborative effort of MSC administration and Student Government, we hope to have a basketball team fit to challenge others here in the Valley. While this development is not guaranteed, its strength, and ultimate success, lies with active student involvement and participation! So, students of MSC, get involved, have fun, and look for more information soon regarding this exciting new opportunity for students!

MSC's a New Russian Professor

By: Kellie Coulson Davis

UAA professor Dr. Alexandra Maloney is teaching a Russian class at UAA this semester. Dr. Maloney, an anthropology and languages professor got her Ph.D. from Tomsk State Pedagogical University (TSPU) in Russia and is presently studying the effects of Russian language and culture on indigenous languages in Alaska and Russia. She came to Alaska, having left her former job in 2002 as Dean of the Foreign Languages Institute, at TSPU.

Her strengths as a professor come from her background where she can relate to many majors and even more people. Dr. Maloney has taught in German immersion schools in Russia and substituted in high schools in Anchorage. Parents taking her class will surely benefit from her background with children in them being able to get tips on sharing their new language with their own kids. High school students wanting to take one class at Mat-Su College will surely find her style welcome as she appeals to their learning and working styles while keeping them learning at a college level. Teaching majors will love her wide variety of skills and ideas. Anthropology students can appreciate her ethnological background. One can only imagine that she teaches like a multifaceted diamond, shining in many directions at once, with an appreciation for the adult learner. For everyone, first and second semesters of Russian fulfill a General Education Requirement.

Russian business people are making headway into business ventures in Alaska and knowing Russian may be helpful in the near future. Russian has also been a part of Alaskan history since 1741. History majors will appreciate the rich understanding that knowing Russian brings by not having to rely on translators for much of the writing from earlier days, and in looking at Russian Orthodox records.

Some people looking at a Russian text may initially run from it. The letters do not look English and you can't fake a Russian test if you haven't studied. That being said, Russian is phonetic. As with other languages, Russian can be broken down into the basics of verb endings and noun prefixes. One quickly adapts to it and the language becomes second nature just as if one is studying French or German, but the letters are different. Viktoria Coan, a UAA fire sciences major and former student of MSC Professor Galina Peck says that "once Russian is in your brain, it never leaves." She said that her schedule didn't allow for her to keep up with Russian, but that learning other languages later was easier because she got the framework down in her head.

Dr. Maloney is looking forward to sharing her many experiences with Mat-Su students. Her class will be Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 to 7:20.

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